

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05850 071214Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W  
-----071218Z 096700 /43

O R 071055Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2120  
ATNFO RUMJDK/AMEMBASSY DACCA 2166  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PK, US  
SUBJECT: A-7 SALE: RUFUSAL NOT SURPRISING

1. THE PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIED A FRONTPAGE ARTICLE BY  
H.K. BURKI ON JUNE 7 REPORTING BHUTTO'S RESPONSE ON THE  
FLOOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE  
A-7 SALE IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE NEVER HAD  
ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT ACQUIRING THE AIRCRAFT. THE PM RECALLED  
THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE A-7  
WHEN THE PAK AIR FORCE CHIEF RECOMMENDED THEIR PURCHASE  
TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, BUT TOLD THE AIR CHIEF THEY WOULD  
NEVER BE SOLD TO PAKISTAN. AFTER MORARJI DESAI'S ASSUMPTION  
OF POWER IN INDIA, HE SAID HE WAS MORE CERTAIN THAN EVER  
THAT THE SALE WOULD NOT GO THROUGH. FOR A WHILE, BHUTTO  
RECOUNTED, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAD "DANGLED  
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THE A-7 BEFORE OUR EYES, HOPING TO MAKE PAKISTAN FORGET  
CERTAIN OTHER THINGS AND CANCEL CERTAIN CONTRACTS  
(REPROCESSING PLANT DEAL)." HOWEVER, BHUTTO DECLARED  
THAT HE KNEW THE A-7 WOULD NOT BE SOLD TO PAKISTAN WHETHER  
IT CANCELLED OTHER CONTRACTS OR NOT.

2. IN CONTRAST TO BHUTTO, WHO SPOKE WITHOUT EMOTION AND

HANDLED THE QUESTION IN A CALM, MATTER-OF-FACT WAY, BURKI SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ANOTHER SWIPE AT THE U.S. COMMENTING FURTHER IN THE ARTICLE, BURKI CHARACTERIZED THE REFUSAL TO SELL THE A-7 AS THE FIRST "FRIENDLY" (SIC) ACT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE PARIS MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE. IT WAS AFTER THIS MEETING DNR BURKI NOTED, THAT THE SECRETARY SAID THE U.S. VALUED ITS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND HOPED THAT THESE WOULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER.

3. THE REASONS GIVEN FOR REJECTING THE SALE, BURKI CLAIMED, ARE "ALMOST COMIC," I.E. THAT AGREEING TO GIVE THE A-7 TO PAKISTAN WOULD UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE REGION AND RUN COUNTER TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ARMS POLICY. BEARING IN MIND THE STRENGTH OF PAKISTAN'S IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, BURKI ARGUED THAT ITS ACQUISITION BY PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE BALANCE OF FORCES. AS FOR THE A7'S SOPHISTICATION, HE OBSERVED THAT THE PLANE IS ABOUT TO GO OUT OF PRODUCTION.

4. THE ONLY OTHER PREY COMMENT SO FAR HAS BEEN A JUNE 4 EDITORIAL IN THE INDEPENDENT, URDU LANGUAGE NAWA-I-WAQT, WHICH DESCRIBED THE DECISION NOT TO SELL THE A-7 TO PAKISTAN AS AN "UNFRIENDLY ACT" AND "A VIOLATION OF BUSINESS ETHICS." AMERICA, IT CLAIMED, HAS NO MORAL REGARD FOR ITS MUSLIM ALLIES. INSTEAD OF TAKING NOTE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS, IT HAS STARTED PUTTING PRESURE ON PAKISTAN TO GIVE UP THE REPROCESSING PLANT BY CANCELLING THE A-7 DEAL. THE EDITORIAL CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR INCREASING DEFENSE CAPABILITY THROUGH CLOSER COOPERATION WITH ARAB COUNTRIES AND PAKISTAN'S RCD PARTNERS. IF THE NATION REMAINS UNITED, IT CONCLUDED, BIG POWER INTRIGUES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CEASE. CONSTABLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AIRCRAFT SALES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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